

Exhibit 15

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2 CITY COUNCIL

3

4 CITY OF NEW YORK

5 -----x

6 THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

7 of the

8 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

9 -----x

10 March 12, 2007

11 Start: 11:15 a.m.

12 Recess: 12:25 p.m.

13 City Hall

14 250 Broadway, 14th Floor

15 New York, New York

16 B E F O R E:

17

18 MIGUEL MARTINEZ

19 Acting Chairperson,

20

21 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Sara Gonzalez

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23 Melissa Mark-Viverito

24

25 Dennis Gallagher

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27 James Oddo

7 Sunday, April 4th, 2004, New York Post with the
8 headline "Lucky to be alive." Details when Al
9 Leighter was hit with a baseball playing a game
10 against the Marlins, and just to remind the
11 Committee about what Mr. Frankle, you know, had that
12 been an aluminium bat, what the outcome might have
13 been.

14 Thank you, Frankle, I appreciate it.

15 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ: Thank
17 you for your testimony. Can we call the next panel?

18 Robert Cruz, Walter Stampfel, Steve

19 Mandl, and Dan Palombo.

20 Please identify yourself. And, again,

21 I want to remind everyone, we have three minutes to
22 testify. Identify yourself and whenever you're
23 ready.

24 MR. STAMPFEL: My name is Walter
25 Stampfel. I'm the Baseball Chairman for the Catholic

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2 High Schools Athletic Association of the Archdiocese
3 of New York and also the Diocese of Brooklyn. We
4 represent over 30 Catholic high schools in the
5 Metropolitan area, mostly New York City, and more
6 than 1,500 student athletes that participate in
7 baseball. Other than the PSAL, we are the largest
8 group that will be affected by this bill.

9 Over the last six months, the
10 ramifications of this bill have been discussed from
11 many different angles - cost, enforcement, college
12 recruiting, and, of course, safety, are just a few
13 of the dozens of issues that have been raised. I
14 don't come here today to argue any of those
15 specifics. That could take hours. I come here simply
16 to say let the experts decide.

17 The National Federation of High
18 Schools, the governing body of our sport by whose
19 rules we play, has spent substantial time over many
20 years working to ensure the safety of our sport.

21 Nothing is more important to them, it is their top

22 priority.

23 The Federation consists of educators,

24 administrators and coaches, and hundreds of years of

25 experience in high school sports. Their perspective

10

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2 is broad and their concern for the safety of our

3 athletes has been compromised. The federation is

4 constantly reviewing the rules of baseball for high

5 schools.

6 In recent years, the National

7 Federation has implemented more rigorous standards

8 for batting helmets, catcher's equipment, and has

9 adjusted rules for sliding to ensure player safety.

10 Most importantly, the Federation has

11 already addressed the issue of aluminum bat safety

12 by establishing weight to length ratios and barrel

13 dimensions that bring the bats within acceptable
14 safety standards. The Bat Exit Speed Ratio, BESR,
15 minus three.

16 We have observed and supported the
17 performance changes ourselves as coaches. From
18 listening to some people, you would think that the
19 issue of bat safety has been totally ignored by the
20 federation. Some studies have even been quoted that
21 were done before the safety standards were put into
22 place. These studies are irrelevant in today's game.

23 We respectfully suggest that the
24 National Federation has a good grasp on the safety
25 issues at hand and urge you to vote no on this

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2 proposal.

3 While we love baseball and think the
4 issue is important, it seems to us that there are

5 far more pressing matters of public safety on which

6 the City Council could make an impact.

7 Every piece of equipment used at

8 Catholic High School Athletic Association and

9 baseball games meet the standards established by the

10 National Federation. We'll use whatever they tell us

11 to use. If they tell us to use wood bats, we'll be

12 happy to. They are the experts in this field and we

13 trust their judgment. They acted on this a few years

14 ago and have not seen the need to do so since. A no

15 vote on this proposal is not a vote against safety.

16 It is simply a yes vote on letting the experts

17 decide.

18 MR. CRUZ: Hi. My name is Robert Cruz.

19 I'm an assistant coach at Hofstra University, and

20 the Vice President of a travel organization, the New

21 York Cardinals, and 16-year-old Travel Coach. I

22 really strongly believe it's not a safety issue

23 concerning the metal bats. We have the regulations

24 in place, as Walter was saying, with BESR standards

25 that we follow, the NCAA, as well as the high

13 name a ton of other names who have been injured.

14 With reference to the e-mail from my

15 Chief of Staff, I probably should give him a raise,

16 because what he was doing is his due diligence. He

17 was reaching out to the medical community, and that

18 man's opinion, you did not misstate it, Mr. Darby,

19 that was his opinion. That was one man's opinion. We

20 reached out to many people, people that testified in

21 the bomb suit against you, people that testified

22 previously, some people responded, some people

23 didn't, some people responded in that manner.

24 Mr. Ettinger, you know I respect you.

25 You are a warrior, you're a brilliant attorney and

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2 you're worth the \$500 or \$1,000 an hour that you

3 get. If this bill is illegal, you will sue, because

4 that's what you've done. And your threat of a

5 lawsuit is why you reached the protocol you did with
6 the NCAA in 1999, and the NCAA backed down.

7 We knew it was the same test. I think
8 by now you realized that we do a little bit of our
9 homework. This is not a question, sir, I'm just
10 making a statement. We do a little bit of our
11 homework, and we understand it was the same test.

12 Frankly, I don't believe that there is evidence out
13 there, and if it is subsequently we will amend the
14 bill, evidence out there -- well, there's evidence
15 out there that says composite bats play like metal
16 bats. So, what we did is put suspenders and belts on
17 and say Major League Baseball says these bats are
18 okay, let's put that on as an added protection. We
19 could dispute, frankly, whether it's the same exact
20 test, but it's a test of composite bats. It's not a
21 test of metal bats, because Major League Baseball
22 doesn't want to go anywhere near metal bats.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 No, no, I'm not done yet. With
25 respect to Mr. Berg, Dr. Berg, you deserve to be

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2 called doctor, absolutely. Dr. Berg, we put into

3 evidence previously testimony from Dr. Kremchek, the

4 team physician for the Cincinnati Reds and Dr.

5 Nicholas from the Nicholas Institute locally here,

6 that I think speak to their concerns and their

7 experiences with dealing with kids and the damage

8 from metal bats.

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 MR. MANNING: Can I just respond to

11 that, please?

12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ: Yes, go

13 ahead.

14 MR. MANNING: As I'm saying, these are

15 all opinions by doctors. Unfortunately, none of them

16 are substantiated by any of the objective evidence

17 available to the scientific community.